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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 06393 160751 Z

12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EUR-25 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /140 W
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R 160405 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 192
USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6393

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI MOPS VS
SUBJECT: GVN FRUSTRATION WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENTS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO PHNOM PENH, BIEN HOA, DANANG, NHA TRANG FROM CAN THO APR 14, 1973 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE CAN THO 192

1. THE PRINCIPAL THEME OF THE G-2 BRIEFING AT THE APRIL 14 MEETING OF MR IV PROVINCE CHIEFS IN CAN THO WAS THE INCREASING INTENSITY OF VC/ NVA MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE DELTA. THE G-2 POINTED OUT THAT THE VC/ NVA INITIATED ONLY 820 INCIDENTS DURING THE APRIL 1972 OFFENSIVE, BUT HAD COMMITTED 1320 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN FEBRUARY 1973, SOME 1490 IN MARCH, AND 700 SO FAR IN APRIL, MAKING FOR AN EVEN HIGHER RATE THAN MARCH.

2. MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGHI ADMITTED THAT THE COMPARISON OF INCIDENTS WITH VIOLATIONS WAS A MARRIAGE OF SHEEP AND GOATS, THOUGH NOT IN THOSE WORDS. CERTAINLY THE GVN SUFFERED MUCH MORE GRIEVOUSLY A YEAR AGO APRIL. BUT THE STATISTICS WERE OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO UNDERLINE THE GVN FRUSTRATION WITH PRESSURES TO OB-SERVE THE PARIS AGREEMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE MORAL JUSTIFICATION SHOULD IT DECIDE TO BEND OR TRANGRESS THEM.

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3. DURING THE RARE AND WELCOME BREAK AFTER TWO AND HALF HOURS OF STATISTICAL ORATORY, THE KIEN PHONG PROVINCE CHIEF, COL TRAN THAN NHIEN TOHD ME HE WAS HAVING SEVERE MORALE PROBLEMS AMONG HIS RF AND PF TROOPS AT POSTS NEAR AND ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER IN HONG NGU DISTRICT. HE CLAIMS THAT THEY ARE FRUSTRATED WITH THE GVN PROSCRIPTION AGAINST HITTING VC/ NVA SANCTUARIES IN CAMBODIA, AND ARE CONSEQUENTLY DESERTING THEIR POSITIONS. WE KNOW FROM SEPARATE SOURCES THAT HONG NGU HAS LOST AT LEAST SEVEN RIVERINE AND BORDER OUTPOSTS SINCE MARCH 20.

4. THE G-2 BRIEFING, NHIEN' S REMARKS, AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE REFTEL, FURTHER REINFORCE OUR IMPRESSION THAT MR IV MAY ALREADY BE FOLLOWING THE VC/ NVA EXAMPLE OF REGARDING NATIONAL BORDERS AS A PRACTICAL FICTION.
BARNES
UNQUOTE BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON06393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BUNKER
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaipmp.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <07-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980121
Subject: GVN FRUSTRATION WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENTS
TAGS: MILI, MOPS, VS
To: EA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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